

0. WHY USE CATECHISMS? Colossians 1:21-23

by Brett Baggett on Sunday, May 24th, 2020

I. Because Jesus has reconciled us to Himself by His death (v.21-22a) ...in order to present us holy and blameless and above reproach before Him (v.22b) ...if we continue in the faith...not shifting from the hope of the gospel (v.23)

- **CONTINUE** = *epimeno*. “Remain, Abide, Stay.” It is used often in the New Testament for residing in someone’s house.
- **NOT SHIFTING** = *Metakineo*. “Move away to a new place.”
- Like **NOAH** and his family had to remain in the Ark to be safe so we must continue trusting Jesus, not shifting from the hope of the gospel. **If you shift, you will drown in the wrath of God! If you continue in Christ, you are safe from whatever waves threaten you!**
- Like the **BRANCH** must remain connected to the vine in order to have life so we must continue in the faith, not moving on from investing all our hope in who Jesus is & what He has done! **If you invest your hope somewhere else, you will wither & die! If you remain, you will live abundantly!**

Q. How do we continue in the faith?

The way to continue in the faith is to be stable and steadfast (v.23)

- **STABLE** = *theteleoo* “Laying of a foundation.”
 - c.f. **Matt. 7:25** “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been **FOUNDED** on the rock.” **Pouring of Concrete.**
- **STEADFAST** = *hedraios* “sitting; immovable; settled.”
 - c.f. **1 Cor. 15:58** “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be **STEADFAST**, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.” **Foxhole.**

Q. How are we made stable and steadfast?

The best way to be stable and steadfast is to be properly catechized.

Q. But do we have any warrant in the Bible to use Catechisms as we have today? **I think we do.**

- **Hebrews 6:1** says there are “Elementary doctrines (principles)” of the faith. **Romans 6:17** “You have become obedient from the heart to the *standard of teaching* to which you were committed.” **2 Timothy 1:13** “Follow *the pattern of sound words* which you heard from me.” **2 Thessalonians 2:15** “Stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us.”

Q. Why is this important? Why am I so adamant to lead you to be properly catechized? **For at least these 8 reasons!**

I. If we do not continue in the faith, we reveal that we are not reconciled to God by the blood of Jesus!

II. We are commanded to grow up into the likeness of Jesus, no longer children tossed around by every wind of doctrine!

- **Eph. 4:11-14** ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.
- **Thomas Watson** “As feathers will be blown every way, so will feathery Christians.” **Thomas Watson:** “If you are not settled in true religion, you will never grow. We are commanded “to grow up into the head, even Christ.” But if we are unsettled there is no growing: “the plant which is continually replanted, never thrives.”

III. There are many who are catechizing you according to damnable heresies!

- **1 Jn.2:6;4:1** “I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you...many false prophets have gone out into the world.”
- **The world, the flesh, and the devils agents (false teachers).**

IV. There are difficult doctrines “which the ignorant & unstable twist to their own destruction”! (2 Pet.3:16)

V. Leaders must be raised who can “give instruction in sound doctrine & also confute those who contradict it”! (Tit. 1:8)

VI. Watson: “Such that are not settled in the faith can never suffer for it” (Mark 4:16-17)!

- **Thomas Watson** “Sceptics in religion hardly ever prove martyrs. Those who are not settled, hang in suspense...”

And if the stick does not warn you, let the carrot woo you!

VII. The more instruction you drink, the more intoxicating joy you will have in Jesus—to know Him more is to love Him more! (Ps.16)

VIII. The better instructed you are the better you will be able to instruct others—the more useful you are in helping others be glad in God!

- To be properly and regularly instructed in the great doctrines **will be like an ANCHOR for your soul!**
- **The waves may roar with affliction & doubt**, but your ship will not drift from Christ the Rock if your anchor is set down in Him.
- Proper and regular instruction **will be like NAILS that fasten you to Christ!**
- **The wind may howl with persecution and discontentment**, but you will stand fast if the nails are sunk deep in Christ Jesus!
- Properly and regularly receive instruction and you **will be like the Lord JESUS CHRIST!**
- **The world will rail and the devils tempt; the flesh will seduce**, but the one who is like Jesus will respond “It is written; Thus says the LORD”!